Legal
Services
Society

British Columbia
www.lss.bc.ca

News Release

February 7, 2008

Michael Reed providing legal aid services

Fort St. James, BC — LSS is pleased to announce the return of local agent services to the residents of Fort St. James and area. Local lawyer Michael Reed assumed these duties effective January 1, 2008.

Michael is originally from Vanderhoof and recently moved back to the community. Since his call to the BC Bar in 2005, Michael has practiced criminal and family law in the north.

Intake services will be provided at his newly established Fort St. James office, as well as at both the Fort St. James and Vanderhoof courthouses on remand days.

"LSS is very pleased to have Michael as a local agent in the north," says Mark Benton, the society's executive director. "He and his staff are very familiar with the area and our clients' needs – their commitment to legal aid will serve our clients well."

Local agents are private bar lawyers funded by LSS to provide services such as:

- taking applications for legal representation and referring eligible clients to lawyers,
- taking legal aid referrals (up to an equitable portion of those issued by their office), and
- directing clients to information and advice services, including community agencies, LawLINE, and family duty counsel.

Office hours are 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday to Friday in Fort St. James at 133-250 Stuart Drive E (except the first and third Tuesday of each month, when intake is at the Fort St. James Courthouse and the first and third Monday of each month, when intake is at the Vanderhoof Courthouse).

Those who are unable to apply for legal aid in person can do so over the phone by contacting the LSS Call Centre at 1-866-577-2525 (toll free).

For further information, please contact:

Loraine Lundquist
Coordinator, Application Services
Legal Services Society, Vancouver
(604) 601-6004

Michael Reed
LSS Local Agent

(250) 567-2800 (in Vanderhoof)

LSS is an independent, non-profit organization that has provided legal aid to people with low incomes in BC since 1979.

Legal representation is available for serious family, child protection, and criminal issues. It is also available for some immigration, mental health law, and prison law matters.

Legal advice is available at most courts through duty counsel and by telephone through LawLINE and the Brydges Line (both are province-wide toll-free lines).

Legal information is available through Legal Information Outreach Worker (LIOW) services, LawLINE, plain language publications, and Internet services, including the Electronic Law Library, Family Law in BC, LSS, and LawLINK websites. (See www.lss.bc.ca for most of our publications, our catalogue, and website links.)

*To contact the **LSS Call Centre** and **LawLINE**, dial: (604) 408-2172 (Lower Mainland) or 1-866-577-2525 (toll free from outside the Lower Mainland).*

Our mission is to provide innovative and collaborative legal aid services that enable people with low incomes to effectively address their issues within the justice system.

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